

Claims

1 1. In the general packet radio service telecommunications system, a method of
2 decoding uplink status flags having reduced interleaving depth in a radio link
3 control/medium access control block comprising the steps of:
4 selecting a first plurality of uplink status flags and providing all of the flag bits in
5 the first block of said group of bursts; and
6 selecting a second plurality of uplink status flags and providing a predetermined
7 number of bits of the uplink status flags in the first burst of said group of bursts and the
8 remaining bits in the other bursts of the group.

1 2. A method according to Claim 1 in which the first plurality of uplink status flags
2 all have a first common feature and the second plurality of uplink status flags all have a
3 second common feature.

1 3. A method according to Claim 2 in which the first common feature is that the
2 third bit of an uncoded uplink status flag is a one and the second common feature is that
3 the third bit of an uncoded uplink status flag is a zero.

1 4. A method according to Claims 1-3 in which one plurality of uplink status flags
2 is associated with a first group of mobile users and the other plurality of uplink status
3 flags is associated with a second group of mobile users.

1 5. A method according to Claim 4 in which the first and second groups of mobile
2 users are respectively users in the Enhanced General Packet Radio Service and in the
3 Real Time Enhanced General Packet Radio Service.

1 6. A General Packet Radio Service comprising:
2 a plurality of base transceiver stations (14), a plurality of radio network controllers
3 (16), and
4 a core network (18); wherein each base transceiver station (14) is arranged to decode
5 uplink status flags for a first group of voice users by providing all of the flag bits in the
6 first burst of the radio link control medium access control block, and for a second group

7 of voice users by providing a predetermined number of bits in the first burst of the radio
8 link control medium access control block and the remaining bits in subsequent bursts.

1 7. A mobile terminal for use in a system according to Claim 6 in which each
2 mobile terminal is associated with a first or a second group of voice users, and is
3 arranged to perform an autocorrelation on a predetermined number of bits in a uplink
4 status flag received from the first burst of the radio link control medium access control
5 block, whereby said terminal determines whether that uplink status flag is associated with
6 the same group of voice users as said terminal.

1 8. A mobile terminal according to Claim 6 in which said predetermined number of
2 bits is nine.

1 9. A mobile terminal according to Claim 8 further arranged to perform a further
2 autocorrelation on the whole number of received uplink status flag bit

1 10. A mobile terminal according to Claim 6 or Claim 7 in a first group and
2 arranged so that, on determination that a received uplink status flag is associated with the
3 first group, the terminal receives the remaining bits of the uplink status flag from said
4 first block.

1 11. A mobile terminal according to Claim 10 further arranged to perform a further
2 autocorrelation on the whole number of received uplink status flag bit.

1 12. A mobile terminal according to Claim 6 or Claim 7 in the second group and
2 arranged so that, on determination that a received uplink status flag is associated with the
3 second group, the terminal received the remaining bits of the uplink status flag from the
4 subsequent blocks of said group.

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